

WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
MINUTES JANUARY 14, 2009
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH CONFERENCE RM A
402 W. WASHINGTON ST INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Voting Member Present:

Allen County - Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
DNR – Dale Brier
Huntington County – Dave Hacker
Knox County - Shane Cooper
Miami County - Ken Einselen
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John J. Gettinger
Tippecanoe County – Lucky Neiburger
Vigo County - Keith Ruble (alternate)
Warren County - Margy Deveral
Wabash County - Michael Beauchamp

Proxy Voters Present:

Cass County - Jaime Fry, Office of Tourism

Non-Voting Members Present:

Dr. James Glass – DNR, Historic Preservation

Commission and DNR staff Present

Ron James – WHRCC Executive Director
Jewell Baxter - DNR

Voting Members Absent w/o Proxy:

Adams County – John Friedt
Vermillion County - James McFall
Gibson County - N. Sherrell Marginet
Parke County – Penny Cox
Fountain County - vacant
Jay County - Faron Parr
Wells County – Keith Huffman

Guests:

none

Call to Order, Proxies, Introductions, Approval of Minutes

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. and asked all to introduce themselves. Additional agenda items were requested. Dale read the received proxies and noted a letter from Lowell Osborne resigning as the Fountain County representative. Janet Fawley gave her proxy to Jamie Fry. Ken Einselen moved the approval of the November 5, 2008 meeting minutes; Ron Zartman 2nd the motion. The Minutes were approved.

President's Report

John G.'s efforts have included attending, with Keith Ruble, the Chamber committee in Terre Haute concerning their Wetland Reserves project; assuring, as a member of their steering committee, that the Busseron Creek Watershed, a Clean Water Indiana Project, budgeted approximately \$15,000 of its 319 grant for education; and meeting with Clyde Kersey in Terre Haute on the mineral royalty legislation (now House Bill 1032). In this latter regard, John noted that he and Ron James met with the DNR's legislative liaison, Chris Smith, who gathered our descriptive materials and promised to update both Director Carter and Governor Daniels. John, Ron and Ralph Weinzapfel, also met with Dr. Rice of the White County (IL) Bridge Commission, concerning Posey County's New Harmony bridge. Though the Commission's role remains unclear, Ralph W. believes Dr Rice envisions us as a figure head 'parent' for the WCBC's fundraising efforts. John noted he is also participating in the RCD in Greencastle, specifically their river projects, and has recently attended the Indiana Soil and Water Conservation annual meeting, including its legislative breakfast. John passed out some informative fliers concerning Clean Water

Indiana, the Indiana Association of SWC Districts, and our Corridor Fund royalties legislation, H.B. 1032. He requested members talk to their representatives, one ideal opportunity for which is the upcoming Conservation Day (1/27/09) at the State House.

Executive Director's Report

Ron J. activities were listed for the past 60 days, and as well the prior 60 days. He noted the successful effort bringing the Banks of the Wabash and the Corridor Commission together for the Corridor Citizen Award (to retiring Sen. Tom Weatherwax). Some news coverage was achieved and the Banks' *River Current* newsletter used our information and photo. Ron urged that, since he is relying more on the BOW newsletter to spread Commission news, all Corridor Commission members must renew their memberships (or join if they've neglected this in the past) and ensure BOW has their current address. Ron then highlighted the efforts of the BOW Wabash & Erie Canal Towpath Trail chapter with towpath trail plans from Lafayette to Fort Wayne. In Allen County, there are trails already being built along the old canal route as well as the marking of a River Road on the opposite valley wall of the towpath, currently a better bike path. Ron then noted his efforts with the new mid-Wabash Sec. 319 grant group (formed with partners from Purdue and the Wabash River Enhancement Corp.) in interviewing and selecting their coordinator, Sara Peel.

Finance Report

Dale Brier reported that, at the beginning of the year (7/1/08) the commission had been given a budget of \$91,000.00. There was a stated 7% reserve on those funds (i.e. 7% un-spendable). Due to the economy, there has now been another 3% added to reserve. Ralph W. asked if any of that money would be available if needed to which the answer was "not likely". This leaves \$81,900.00 to cover the budget this fiscal year (to 6/30/09). Dale B. stated that the executive director's contract, November travel expense and money for the decals leaves us a balance of \$13,340.30.

Dale said the proposed budget for 2009 – 2011 was \$84,630.00 per year but that a 5% reserve has already been assessed leaving \$80,246.00. Dale noted that commission members are discouraged from direct appeal to their state legislators. If members want to speak with someone about the budget, they could go to DNR's Chris S. or Charlie White. Dale explained that items for which money has been set aside could still be purchased, but next year's budget purchases are questionable. John G re-stated the need to pass House Bill 1032 as those funds will help us meet Corridor master plan goals. Ralph W. urged the solicitation of donations, with the help of the Banks of the Wabash to avoid the reversion problem, to diminish reliance on the state budget.

Dale B. then commented on this year's purchasing saying we have not paid any of the membership expenses such as IN Parks & Rec., River Network, New Harmony Foundation, etc. Ron noted the New Harmony Foundation (Heritage Paddle Fest) was asking for \$2000 (up from the \$750 we gave them last year). The River Network partnership (\$100) is paid with our River Rally charges. Dale noted we would not be at River Rally - all out of state travel has been banned.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Report & election of 2009 officers

Ralph W. nominated the current president, John G., and vice president, Norman "Lucky" Neiburger, for retention. Nominations were opened to the floor. Hearing none; Ralph W. moved the nominations closed, Dave Hacker 2nd, motion carried. The nominees were elected by acclamation.

Corridor signage

The 100 "Wabash River Heritage Corridor" signs arrived and approximately \$2800 has been paid. There are approximately 100 bridges over the Wabash, half of which are county and half of which are state. At two signs per bridge, our initial order is to cover all the county bridges while

details with the state are negotiated. INDOT has been requested to name a non-voting member to the Commission, suggesting those identified at prior meetings, but none as yet has been named.

Dave Hacker also brought the decals for “River Road” directional banners (to be used instead of the towpath trail logo on those county routes running at distances away from the old canal bed); which cost \$125 for 100 at 5”. The Commission has not purchased directional arrows; it is estimated they would cost under \$1 each, but may be available from each county’s highway department. Dave H. stated Huntington County has agreed to give him the arrows for the signs. Standards for marking turns were discussed; George Mears suggested Brian Sturm (of Purdue) be consulted as he handled this for Carroll County’s already marked roads.

John G. brought up posting river roads in Illinois. Ron J. had mentioned the program to our contact in Mt. Carmel, Tim Zimmer. The lack of Illinois on the logo was a stumbling block. An Illinois defining decal was discussed. As an aside, Ron J. noted that the Illinois “Wabash & Ohio River Commission” has yet to have members appointed by its Governor so a state position is, as yet, unknown. Members could seek local representatives on the Illinois side to consult.

Water Trail map edits

Only 3 of the commission’s members have sent in their map edits by today’s deadline so it has been reset for the March meeting. Ron J. reminded all that each county representative is to drive from their access points, noting mileage and directions for each amenity (room, food, groceries, trail, water, shower, toilet, camping, tourist site, etc.), make notes directly on a hard copy of their county’s map, and turn them in to Ron J. It is estimated that each map update will cost around \$125.

Banks of the Wabash, Inc.

Ken E. said the Board of the Banks is set to meet next week in Covington. Ron J. passed out member application pamphlets. Applications may be marked for whatever chapter he or she has an interest: Towpath Trail, 1812 Commemoration or Sullivan County. Dale reiterated that the Commission’s membership can only be paid with an invoice to the Commission from the group. Mike Beauchamp moved that we obtain corporate membership in the Banks, Ralph W. 2nd, passed.

Legislative initiative - 2009

All members should have received the emailed information on H.B. 1032. Dale B. had hard copies available. Ken E. urged members to take advantage of arranged meeting days, such as District Day, arranged for local government units, or “Third House” sessions in their locales. There are 2 main parts to our bill: 1st is the creation of a non-reverting “Corridor Fund”; and, 2nd is dedicating royalties arising from mineral extraction from under the state’s navigable waters into the Fund. Over the past six years this has been from \$60,000 to \$200,000 per year. John G. recalled that this bill had passed in the House last year 98-1, but died in the Senate. Dale asked if Chris S. had responded as to whether the DNR would endorse the bill. We have not received this information though it would be logical as other government groups get royalties from their real estate’s minerals including prisons, parks, wildlife areas, etc. Waterway extractions are by “lateral” drilling deep under the water. Ron J. said that DNR - Division of Oil & Gas (headed by Hershel McDivitt) could better answer most questions. The O & G division will probably not oppose our bill as long as it receives its portion for arranging the contracts. Senate possibilities and sponsors were discussed.

Ron J. was asked if a letter could be written for the commissioners to personalize to inform their legislators. Ron noted the recent info brochure included panels with talking points, our goals, and reasons for a Fund to receive the royalties. Ron J. will provide an informative letter by email..

1812 Bicentennial

Shane Cooper met with Dale and Phil yesterday. Dale has a map of Harrison’s route which, with National Parks backing, he wishes to work into an updated map and travel guide; this could have a long shelf life on into the future. Dale is working on funding.

The committee is also trying to coordinate all of the events having to do with the 1812 Bicentennial, with a goal of having a complete list by their next meeting in early March. They hope to avoid overlapping events. Shane, srcoop@hotmail.com, asked for all to send him group and date for any event that is already scheduled.

Other 1812 efforts were discussed: a good website is maintained by Jim Hill with the Niagra Falls Parks Commission, an International Commission; Dr. Jim Glass, DNR-Historic Preservation, mentioned his ongoing monthly meetings concerning historic structures of interest from 1812 (Dr. Glass will give the Commission the email address; John said that the Merom Improvement Assoc. has created an 1812 committee (he is chairing it) which will put some money into the project when it is necessary. Ron noted that the Banks of the Wabash was the treasurer and has created an 1812 Bicentennial chapter. [The New Harmony bridge was discussed here – see old business].

4th Edition Brochure-edits deadline

Ron J. reported that Chair Janet Fawley hoped to reprint our signature brochure as early as this summer. Dale B. noted Steve Morris' belief that we still had approximately 100 boxes (40,000 pieces) over at PEN Products; we are awaiting their count. The signature brochure is "Indiana's Wabash River Corridor"; the green, glossy paper, map with county blocks and information on one side and general Corridor information on the other. County changes should be to Janet F. by 3/11.

Dale B. reported that the capital project account is holding \$23,500 which Bob Bronson has marked for these brochures and river trail maps. If it survives this biennium budget process, there may still be a 10% reserve on it. Bob B. would know more about the sources of this money.

Old Business

New Harmony Bridge

Dr. Jim Glass volunteered to inquire of Dr. Dave Rice, White County Bridge Commission, as to the New Harmony Bridge project, the Commission's role, and plans to raise the necessary \$7 million to fix the bridge to where it would be acceptable to the either state. The WCBC may need to raise money through bonds or grants and currently it cannot. One thought is that the WCBC would be a "subsidiary" of the WRHCC, enabling it to sell bonds or accept grants. The WRHCC would need to be free from liability and could make no decisions involving 'state power' to avoid the constitutional ban on second 'lucrative' positions (tax, tolls, etc.). Ron has a packet that details this in rough which he received after the Merom meeting in Dec. 08 when he, John G. and Ralph W. met with Dr. Rice. Lucky N. moved the Commission appoint Ralph W. to represent us in any negotiation, George M 2nd; the motion passed.

WabashRiver.us leasing

Margy Deverall reported on the Lafayette meeting with Cecily Schneider (of BOW's board), John G. and an alternate website provider, for discussion of Eric Stallsmith's proposal. The provider showed them 2 different computer programs. Also discussed were issues of manpower, funding and budget constraints. The committee advised the Commission to pass on the leasing proposal.

Central Wabash Watershed

Ron J. reported that IDEM has committed in excess of \$400,000 to a consortium of WREC, Purdue and the urban areas of Tippecanoe County to a Central Wabash Watershed program. The plan is to design water quality projects for 3 different types of land development in the Tippecanoe and surrounding counties area of the Wabash. Ron participated on their director search committee. They have now hired Sara Peel. The Commission will extend an invitation for her to update the Corridor at its meeting in May in Lafayette.

Wabash River Research Council

Ken E. attended the organizational meeting held in Lafayette with Prof. Ron Turco of Purdue U. hosting. The concept was to provide a loose coordination of the numerous Wabash River

research efforts. The goal is to minimize competing efforts and maximize the spread of knowledge and results. The groups attending utilized the Wabash Corridor Master Plan to coordinate their efforts. Meetings will be held as needed to keep the interested parties aware of each others efforts.

River Rally, Baltimore

Ron said his proposal to present at the River Rally in Baltimore on May 29, 2009, had been accepted. This will cut \$300 off his attendance costs, reducing it to approximately \$500 plus travel. Dale B. noted that budget restrictions have led to the banning of out-of-state travel and, even if Ron arranged the money to travel, there is a question as to whether he could be on state time. Ralph W. moved to request the Banks of Wabash fund Ron as a representative to River Rally. With Lucky N.'s 2nd, the motion passed. Dale B. and Ron J will determine if Ron can bill the state for his time.

State Fair Exhibit and Visit Indiana Day

Dale B. said that there may be room in the DNR building but they are requiring manned booths. This appears beyond the Commission's labor capabilities. Visit Indiana Day is still going to be offered and will cost approximately the same as last year.

Office space in Lafayette

The landlord for the Lafayette office had asked for \$400 per month in rent. Since this amount exceeds our ability to pay, Lucky N. has negotiated it down to \$100/mo. for utilities until we find new office space or September, whichever comes first. The Wabash Riverkeeper (HEC) will contribute \$100/mo as rent under the agreement. Lucky will work on getting this in writing and, meanwhile, moved the Commission authorize \$100/month until 9/09; Ralph W 2nd, passed.

New Business

Art/river cultural event

Margy said she and Jim Faulkner had discussed some possibilities for a new art project focused on the river. They favored a juried, traveling show. She requested the formation of a committee and noted Jim F. declined to be on the committee. Ron J. will work with her.

Meeting schedule and locations for 2009, 2010

On March 11, 2009, we'll meet in Indianapolis, on May 13th in Lafayette, on July 8th in Peru, and on September 9th in Delphi. Our January 13, 2010 meeting will be back in Indianapolis. Since our November date falls on a state holiday, that meeting's date or place has yet to be set.

Announcements & General Discussion

Calendar

Conservation Day will be on Jan. 27th at the Statehouse. Newport Chemical Depot is having a meeting on the 20th announcing their closing and the selling of their property (in which Fish & Wildlife Div., DNR, have shown an interest). Ron J. asked for a member to attend, with the thought we might show interest for a river camp & access point, to obtain details.

Travel

John G. asked members to save our travel money by carpooling or not requesting money for travel within 100 miles. Reduced billings were discussed and found unworkable under State rules.

Announcements

Dale B. said that a new rule requires all commission members fill out new W9 forms.

Keith R asked about listing with or contributing to community foundations. Ron J. asked all to bring full contact info and levels of membership/contribution for their local groups in March.

Lucky N. moved for adjournment and George M. 2nd. The motion passed at 4pm.

The next meeting is at 1:00 p.m., March 11, 2009 at the Indiana Government Center South-Conference Room A, 402 W. Washington St, Indianapolis, Indiana.



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
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Presidents Report

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| Logansport | 11-5-08 | Banks + W.R.H.C.C. |
| Farmerburg | 11-18-08 | Busseron Creek Watershed Partnership S.C. |
| Terre Haute | | Wetland Reserve meeting |
| Marion | 12-12-08 | Bridge meeting Dr. Rice Ralph, Ron |
| Marion | 12-10-08 | Marion Improvement Committee organized 1812 |
| Sullivan | 12-18-08 | Soil Conservation meeting sponsors of Turtle + Busseron |
| Terre Haute | 12-18-08 | meeting with Clyde Kersey |
| Indianapolis | 12-23-08 | D.N.P. Legislative Director C. Smith Ron |
| Greencastle | 1-5-9 | RC + D Executive Committee |
| Indianapolis | 1-12-09 | Indiana Association of Soil + Water Conservation |
| Indianapolis | 1-13-09 | IASWC Legislation meeting Breakfast |

1-27-09

Indi. Conservation

DAY

See You

Ron Jones
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John Gelfinger
President
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Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission
Executive Director's Report, 11/4/08 – 1/2/09, Submitted by Ron James

- ◆ Review Agenda, Exec.Dir. Report, etc.; telephone canvas for quorum for 11/5/08 Commission meeting
- ◆ Finalize preparations, travel & attend Banks of the Wabash Board of Directors; Weatherwax Corridor Citizen Awards Luncheon & WRHC Commission Meeting 11/5/08 in Logansport, Cass County
- ◆ Review edits to date; follow-up on WT map edit needs, email representatives re: Water Trail
- ◆ Follow-up on Corridor inquiry re: photos of Wabash in Darke Co., OH for publisher of book on J. Chapman
- ◆ Travel & attend BOW Towpath Trail Chapter meeting, Lafayette, 11/6/08
- ◆ Follow-up with Kessler, Neiburger, Schnapp, Lambert, et al., re: rental at 3rd St., Lafayette & alternatives
- ◆ Follow-up on WRHC River Road decal purchase: state account for, and transfer art work to, provider
- ◆ Communicate & follow-ups with Search Committee for 319 Coordinator, Mid-Wabash group
- ◆ Revise & follow through on Minutes for 11/6 Towpath Trail Chapter meeting; email T. Castaldi
- ◆ Follow through on newsletter articles to editor Ulrich, scan and send
- ◆ Organize, filing, password 'repair' from lock-out, 'Hotmail' returns, misc. computer issues, etc.
- ◆ Travel & attend IDEM, CTIC, IASWCD 'Stakeholder' meeting, N. Manchester, Wabash Co., 11/18/08
- ◆ Research and phone call follow-up; convey to Ken E. results re: research on Wabash for Consortium mtg
- ◆ Travel & attend A.C. Plan Comm. meeting on Scenic & Recreational Cedar Creek development, 11/20/08
- ◆ Prepare, distribute for comment, revise & finalize Info Brochure on WRHCC; print as necessary
- ◆ Travel & judge for 'We The People' competition, West Hamilton/Aboite, Allen County, 11/21/08
- ◆ Continued follow through with Kessler, Neiburger, Schnapp, et al., re: lease of 3rd St, Lafayette
- ◆ Travel & meet with Ex. Dir., Little Wabash River (LRWP), Waynedale, Allen County, 11/21/08
- ◆ Phone conferences with Dr. Rice, J. Gettinger, Chris S., etc. re: New Harmony bridge, set meeting
- ◆ Prepare Real Estate Lease Addendum for 3rd St., re: month to month till 9/09; distribute
- ◆ Calculate river miles for Jay, Adams & Wells County bridges; convey info to J. Friedt, Adams Co.
- ◆ Research digital camera replacement; battery costs; etc.
- ◆ Conferences with D. Reuter re: AGreenerIndiana & WabashRiver.us; HEC cooperation; events
- ◆ Travel & post WRHC Community sign at New Corydon, Jay County; 12/3/08
- ◆ Travel & meet with Swissland Cheese representatives re: Wabash River Valley marketing; 12/3/08
- ◆ Travel & attend Mid-Wabash 319 Coordinator interviews, Lafayette, 12/4/08
- ◆ Travel & attend interview S. Peel & meet with Lafayette Mayor Rosarski; Professors Prokopy, Bowman, Frankenberger; G. Nyberg, Ex. Dir. NICHES; S.Lambert, Ex. Dir. WREC re: 319 Coordinator, 12/5/08
- ◆ Follow-up on Legislative races/successful candidates in Corridor; email update
- ◆ Review, revise & finalize Minutes of 11/5 WRHCC meeting
- ◆ Telephone conference with T. Zimmer, Mt. Carmel IL, re: WT & corridor signs & efforts
- ◆ Prepare, revise & distribute Proxy for 1/14/09 meeting to McIntosh, Vermillion Co.& Fawley, Cass Co.
- ◆ Research, register & disseminate information re: Conservation Day on 1/27/09
- ◆ Travel & attend meeting with J Gettinger, R Weinzapfel, Dr. Rice at Merom, Sullivan Co., 12/12/08
- ◆ Follow-up with Brady @ HEC and Brier @ DNR re: monthly payments to Kessler for 3rd St use
- ◆ Phone conferences & emails D Brier re: IN budget restrictions & reserve increases; various
- ◆ Prepare & submit IN Trails Advisory Board nomination for J Gettinger, Water Trails
- ◆ Attend video conference re: Indiana Budget expectations workshop, Prof. L DeBoer, Purdue U., 12/18/08
- ◆ Prepare, revise and submit Agenda & other documents for 1/14/09 WRHCC meeting
- ◆ Telephone conference with M. Estrada (A.T.C. McDivitt), DNR Oil & Gas Div., re: planned legislation
- ◆ Arrange, travel & attend meeting with DNR Legislative Director C. Smith & J Gettinger, 12/23/08
- ◆ Begin research for web site updates (festival calendars, etc.)
- ◆ Begin research for budget recommendations (npo support, office needs, travel, etc.)
- ◆ Receive presentation acceptance/\$300 scholarship to '09 River Rally; research registration & follow-up
- ◆ Finalize Executive Director's report for 1/14/09 meeting